(11) Lands fit for cultivation in the Reserved forests should be registered in the names of the people.

(12) An Agricultural School should be established in the State.

(13) Agricultural Exhibitions should be held every year in connection with the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

(14) In connection with the Industrial Survey of the State, a Commission on the model of the Holland Commission should be appointed to investigate the whole question, including agricultural problems and the Commission should consist of Dr. Barker, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and one or two non-official gentlemen.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

83. Agriculture end Trade.

Mr. Kochitti Kurien (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) said that Travancore was admirably suited for cultivation, but that the condition of the agriculturists was far from satisfactory. Firstly, in regard to *punja* cultivation, the Member said that the average *pattom* from *punja* lands did not exceed two to four *paras* of paddy once in two years. The assessment exceeded one *para* of paddy per *para* of wet land. So the *punja* cultivator had not much left for himself after paying the Government dues. In certain years, the crops entirely failed rendering the condition of the ryot miserable. Several persons had been completely ruined by cultivating *punja* lands; for, the brackish water from the sea and the backwaters found its way to the rivers making them useless for purposes of cultivation. Owing to these and other causes such as the overflow of water into the *punja* lands by tidal action, the cultivation of *punja* lands had become mostly unprofitable. The lands were not being cultivated yearly, although the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries was of opinion that, by taking proper measures, they could be cultivated annually and also made to yield ten times as at present.

The Member next examined the condition of *cherikal* cultivation and pointed out that the forest tracts where such cultivation was conducted became unproductive in course of time. In some cases, lands were left fallow for six or even ten years after one crop before they were cultivated. The Member thought that this was the reason for such tracts becoming *tharisu* lands. In *cherikal* lands fertile soil extended to a depth of 2 or 3 ft. from the surface. It was made more fertile by the admixture of decomposed matter in it. Since the shrubs and bushes growing above the soil took root beneath the soil, the fertile surface earth was not washed away even in heavy rain. But, when the soil was ploughed and the overgrowth cleared, the heavy *edavapathi* rains invariably washed away the surface soil and, consequently, the strata of unfertile earth below alone remained. In course of time, the surface soil completely disappeared, leaving the lower strata barren. To prevent such undesirable transformation of *cherikal* lands, the Member suggested that mud-walls should be erected round specified plots of *cherikal* lands and that proper *drains* should also be constructed to prevent earth from being washed away by the rains.

Regarding sugar-cane cultivation, the Member submitted that the average yield per acre was poor when compared with other countries. In Travancore, the *pattom* from an acre of ground cultivated with sugar-cane did not exceed thirty to fifty rupees. In Java and other countries, the yield from one acre cultivated with sugar-cane ranged from 650 to 1,000 rupees. In the Mysore State, the yield per acre rose as high as Rs. 1,000. Improved methods of cultivating sugar-cane and converting its juice into molasses, etc., could be profitably introduced in Travancore also as in Mysore.

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An appreciable area of *kari* lands near the Kayenkulam and Vembanad lakes was in a neglected condition. It could be improved and converted into dry lands fit for cocoanut cultivation.

In the interior parts of the country, there were lands uncultivated on both sides of perennial streams and rivers. The height of such lands from the water level ranged from 4 to 10 ft. The lands were not cultivated as the people could not easily manage to take the water to the lands which could be done only by engines. The price of such engines varied from Rs. 100 to Rs. 4,000. In Madras, an engine was recently made by the help of which water could be carried to a height of 30 ft. the engine being worked by a pair of ordinary bulls and costing only Rs. 100. Such engines could be freely used in Travancore also. The Government should help the poor ryots in buying such engines by the grant of loans on the security of the engines and realise the loan in small instalments.

The lands had also not sufficient manure, before cultivation. If manures were applied as in the case of the lands at Onattukara and other places, much better yield would be the result.

To remedy the above evils the Member suggested,—

(1) that, in cases where persons were prepared to take up blocks of such uncared for and neglected lands with a view to cultivate them on scientific lines under the direction and supervision of the Director of Agriculture, the Government should render help by granting the necessary funds in advance ;

(2) that any loss arising from that undertaking by unavoidable causes should be mitigated by the Government;

(3) that, in case the cultivation proved a success, the amount advanced by the Government should be held a first charge on the produce;

(4) that, in places where persons were not available to undertake such experimental cultivation, the Department of Agriculture should select small plots and conduct cultivation to serve as models to the ryots;

(5) that at least a sum of one lakh of rupees should be placed at the disposal of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries every year for the grant of loans to agriculturists and industrialists to be used for agricultural and industrial purposes;

(6) that the loans be made to the ryots on reasonable and easy terms so as to enable them to take full advantage of the concession; and

(7) that the amount spent on the Agricultural Department be increased to widen the scope and usefulness of the department.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(2) Other Industries.

64. Need for the appointment of a Committee to enquire into and report upon the ways in which the Government may co-operate with the people in the economic development of the country

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappila, B. A. (Member, Nominated) congratulated the Government on the notable step taken towards attempting a solution of the subject. He referred to the appointment of Dr. S. G. Barker for the Industrial Survey of the State. He must candidly admit, the Member said, that, at first, the appointment did not produce a favourable impression in the country, because Dr. Barker was known only as Vice-Principal in the Training College and no one knew anything about the special qualifications he possessed for the post. Several even thought that some one with better qualifications could have been appointed. But, since coming to Trivandrum and hearing his lecture on the industrial development of the State and knowing his plans and methods of work and from the subsequent information about his work elsewhere and his scheme to be carried out here, he might say that the original view had given place to a favourable impression about his appointment; the people

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